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DOCKET NO.: THOM-0022

PATENT #3/a

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Murray Edward Bruce LEIGHTON

U.S. Serial No.: 10/088/042

International Application No.: PCT/GB01/02968

International Filing Date: 05 July 2001

For: METHODS OF AND APPARATUS FOR SEALING ZIPPER TO A SUBSTRATE

Assistant Commissioner of
Patents & Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please make the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 as follows:

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, which includes locating the fastener between two substantially parallel webs of material, and initially attaching the lengths of fastener only to the inside of one of said webs of material.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the lengths of fastener are presented to the substrate by a cross-web technique.

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6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the body of the fastener comprises two engageable elements, each having an upstanding post at the margin of the fastener which is engageable with a heel of the other element at the opposing margin of said other element, with the respective posts and heels of the two elements angled at their respective contact surfaces.

10. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, in which the sealing jaws are preceded in the path of movement by another pair of jaws incorporating means to sever filled and sealed bags.

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REMARKS

Early consideration and allowance of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 have been amended.

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to otherwise conform with U.S. claim practice. No new matter has been entered. None of the amendments change the scope of any claim, nor are any amendments submitted for reasons of patentability.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

July 11 2002

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[illegible]

In the claims:

Claims 3, 5, 6, and 10 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], which includes locating the fastener between two substantially parallel webs of material, and initially attaching the lengths of fastener only to the inside of one of said webs of material.
5. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, in which the lengths of fastener are presented to the substrate by a cross-web technique.
6. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, in which the body of the fastener comprises two engageable elements, each having an upstanding post at the margin of the fastener which is engageable with a heel of the other element at the opposing margin of said other element, with the respective posts and heels of the two elements angled at their respective contact surfaces.
10. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 [to 9], in which the sealing jaws are preceded in the path of movement by another pair of jaws incorporating means to sever filled and sealed bags.